

Montana Laboratory Sentinel



Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau
800-821-7284 www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

1/5/2012

DISCOUNTED PRICING FOR TB NAAT AND IGRA (QUANTIFERON) UNTIL JUNE 30, 2012

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (MT DPHHS) continues to promote the use of TB Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) and Interferon Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs) for the early diagnosis of TB infection or disease. In 2011, thanks to a grant to support testing, the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) was able to offer TB NAATs as fee-waived tests. Although this funding has been depleted, the MTPHL is pleased to announce that additional grant funding has been secured, and **TB NAATs** will be offered for the first 6 months of 2012 at the **reduced fee of \$47.50**.

In addition, due to the secured grant funding, the MTPHL will be able to offer IGRAs at a reduced fee through June 30, 2012. IGRAs are used as an alternative to the TB skin test (TST) to determine if a person is infected with TB. IGRAs are more specific than the TST, and can be performed on blood, so it eliminates a repeat visit to the provider for reading the skin test. The IGRA that the MTPHL performs is the QuantiFERON Gold In-Tube Assay (QFT-Gold IT). There is already a reduced fee of \$40 when at least 20 specimens for QFT are received from one facility in one batch. For the next 6 months the fee for a **single QFT test** will be **reduced to \$60**.

Although Montana is a low incidence state for tuberculosis, it is still important to provide early diagnosis for those patients with tuberculosis as part of their differential diagnosis. MT DPHHS has print materials available, both small posters and tri-folds, which describe the importance of thinking NAAT for earlier diagnosis of TB suspects. We also have posters describing the correct way to collect blood specimens for QFT-Gold IT testing. We will be doing a direct mailing to many laboratories in the state in January. Please contact the MTPHL at 800-821-7284 if you are interested in receiving these materials.



VANCOMYCIN-RESISTANT ENTEROCOCCI

Isolates of vancomycin-resistant *E. faecium* and *E. faecalis* typically contain *vanA* genes. *VanB*-containing isolates typically produces lower level resistance to vancomycin. *E. gallinarum* and *E. casseliflavus* isolates are intrinsically resistant to vancomycin. These isolates contain *vanC* genes that typically produce vancomycin MICs of 2 to 16 µg/ml.

Identification of VRE species is important because it aids in confirming whether an isolate has intrinsic (*vanC*) or acquired resistance (*vanA* or *VanB*). Knowledge of the type of resistance is critical for infection control purposes. *VanA* and *VanB* genes are transferable. *VanC* genes are not transferable and have not been associated with outbreaks.

Motility and pigment tests can be used to differentiate *E. faecium* and *E. faecalis* from other *Enterococcus* species. Susceptibility patterns, although not definitive, may be helpful in distinguishing *E. faecalis* from *E. faecium*.

	<i>E. faecium</i>	<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>E. gallinarum</i>	<i>E. casseliflavus</i>
Motility	–	–	+	+
Yellow Pigment				+
Penicillin/ Ampicillin susceptibility	≤20%	>95%		

A discussion of the survey question with references to CLSI guideline pages may be accessed [here](#).



GET RESULTS
NATIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK APRIL 22-28, 2012

**Celebrate National
Medical Laboratory
Professionals Week**

April 22-28, 2012

REMINDER

February 29th 2012 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Billings

Don't miss this opportunity to attend the second Quality Management System workshop sponsored by the MTPHL. *Using CLSI Guidelines for Training and Competency Assessment* is an interactive workshop being presented by Lucia Berte, renowned quality management specialist.

The workshop is being offered by MTPHL at no cost thanks to special funding received from the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). Lunch will be provided and CEUs will be available. Relevant CLSI guidelines will be provided to participating facilities.

Please access a registration form [here](#).

The Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section may be reached 24/7 at (406) 444-0273.

CDEpi Data can be found [here](#).